1. Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) selection logic within a CPU for selecting an ISA decoding mode for a program instruction from a plurality of ISA decoding modes, the program instruction retrieved from an address in an address space of the CPU, the selection logic comprising:

a plurality of boundary address registers for storing
boundary addresses that partition the address
space into a plurality of address ranges
corresponding to the plurality of ISA decoding
modes; and

ISA mode selection logic, coupled to said plurality of boundary address registers, for receiving the address, and for comparing the address to said boundary addresses to determine the ISA decoding mode for the program instruction.

- 1 2. The selection logic as recited in claim 1, wherein the 2 CPU executes a multiple-ISA application program.
- The selection logic as recited in claim 2, wherein said
  multi-ISA application program comprises program
  components having program instructions corresponding to
  said plurality of ISA decoding modes.
- 1 4. The selection logic as recited in claim 3, wherein said 2 program instructions that correspond to a first ISA

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- decoding mode are located within a first one of said plurality of address ranges.
- 1 5. The selection logic as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of boundary address registers stores
- a boundary address for a compresponding address range.
- 1 6. The selection logic as recited in claim 5, wherein said
  2 boundary address comprises a lower address boundary for
  3 said corresponding one of said plurality of address
  4 ranges.
- The selection logic as recited in claim 6, wherein said

  ISA mode selection logic determines that a particular

  boundary address register corresponds to one of said

  plurality of address ranges within which said address

  is located.
- 1 8. The selection logic as recited in claim 7, wherein said
  2 ISA mode selection logic selects the ISA decoding mode
  3 corresponding to said particular boundary address
  4 register.
- 1 9. The selection logic as recited in claim 8, wherein said
  2 ISA mode selection logic provides the ISA decoding mode
  3 to instruction decoding logic to enable correct
  4 decoding of the program instruction.

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1	10.	An Instruction Set Architecture (ISA) mode selection
2		apparatus in a CPU, comprising:
3		decoding logic, for decoding a program instruction
4		retrieved from an address within an address space
5		of the CPU;
6		a boundary address register file, for storing boundary
7		addresses that map one or more ISA modes of the
8		CPU to corresponding address ranges within said
9		address space; and
10		an ISA mode controller, coupled to said boundary
11		address register file, and to said decoding logic,
12		for designating to said decoding logic an ISA mode
13		to be used to decode said program instruction
14		according to said address.
1	11.	The ISA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
2	11.	10, wherein said program instruction is within an
۷		10, wherein said program instruction is within an
3		application program that comprises components, each of
4		said domponents having program instructions that
5		correspond to only one of said one or more ISA modes.
1	12.	The SA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
2		11, wherein first program components corresponding to a
3		first ISA mode are located within a first address
4		range.



L	13.	The	ISA	${\tt mode}$	selection	apparatus	as	recited	in	claim
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- 2 10, wherein said boundary address register file
- 3 comprises:
- a plurality of boundary address registers, each storing
- one of said boundary addresses.
- 1 14. The ISA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
- 2 13, wherein said boundary addresses comprise lower
- address boundaries for/said corresponding address
  - ranges.
- 1 15. The ISA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
- 2 14, wherein said ISA mode controller comprises address
- evaluation logic f dr determining which one of said
- 4 plurality of boundary address registers corresponds to
- said program instruction.
- 1 16. The ISA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
- 2 15, wherein said ISA mode controller designates to said
- decoding logic said ISA mode based upon determining
- 4 which one of said plurality of boundary address
- 5 registers corresponds to the program instruction.
- 1 17. The ISA mode selection apparatus as recited in claim
- 2 10, wherein said ISA mode controller provides said ISA
- mode to said decoding logic to enable correct
- 4 processing of said program instruction.

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1	18.	A CPU for executing a mult ple-ISA program, comprising:
2		ISA mode selection logic, configured to provide a first
3		ISA mode indicator that corresponds to a first
4		program instruction, said first program
5		instruction being fetched from a first address in
6		memory;
7		ISA mode boundary address registers, coupled to said
8		ISA mode selection logic, configured to store
9		boundary addresses that partition said memory into
10		address ranges, wherein a plurality of ISA modes
11		is mapped to saddress ranges; and
12		an instruction decoder, coupled to said ISA mode
13		selection logic, configured to receive said first
14		ISA mode indicator, and configured to decode said
15		first instruction according to said first ISA
16		mode.
1	19.	The CPU as recited in claim 18, wherein the multiple-
	1).	ISA program comprises components that are stored within
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3		a corresponding address range.
1	20.	The CPU as recited in claim 18, wherein said ISA mode
2		boundary address registers contain said boundary
3		addresses that designate said address ranges.

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1	21.	The CPU as recited in clarm 20, wherein said boundary
2		addresses comprise lower address boundaries for said
3		address ranges.
1	22.	The CPU as recited in claim 21, wherein said ISA mode
2		selection logic determines which one of said ISA mode
3		boundary address registers corresponds to first
4		address.
1	23.	The CPU as recited in claim 22, wherein said ISA mode
2		selection logic provides said first ISA mode indicator
3		to said instruction decoder to enable correct
4		processing of said first program instruction.
1	24.	A computer program product for use with a computing
2		device, the computer program product comprising:
3		a computer usable medium, having computer readable
4		program code embodied in said medium, for causing
5		a CPU to be described, said CPU for executing a
6		multiple-ISA application program, said computer
7		readable program code comprising:
8		first program code, for providing boundary address
9		registers, configured to partition an address
10		space of said CPU into address ranges, said
11		address ranges corresponding to associated
1 2		TSA modes: and

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13		second program code, for providing ISA mode
14		selection $logi_{\mathbf{r}}$ , configured to receive an
15		address from which a program instruction was
16		retrieved, and configured to compare said
17		address against said address ranges to
18		determine on ISA mode for processing said
19		program instruction.
1	25.	The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
2		wherein said multiple-ISA application program comprises
3		program components corresponding to said associated ISA
4		modes.
1	26.	The computer program product as recited in claim 25,
2		wherein each of said boundary address registers
3		contains an address boundary for a corresponding
4		address range.
1	27.	The computer program product as recited in claim 26,
2		wherein said address boundary comprises a lower address
3		boundary for said corresponding address range.
1	28.	The computer program product as recited in claim 27,
2		wherein said ISA mode selection logic determines a
3		particular boundary address register that corresponds

to said address.

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1	29.	The computer program product as recited in claim 28,
2		wherein said ISA mode selection logic determines said
3		ISA mode that corresponds to said particular boundary
4		address register.
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- 1 30. A method in a CPU for selecting an Instruction Set

  2 Architecture (ISA) mode during execution of an

  3 application program, the application program having

  4 program instructions according to a plurality of ISA

  5 modes, the method comprising:
- a) partitioning an address space of the CPU into

  address ranges, the address ranges being

  designated by contents of a boundary register

  file;
- b) mapping each of the address ranges to each of a plurality of ISA modes; and
- c) selecting the ISA mode for processing of the program instruction according to said mapping.
- 1 31. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein said 2 partitioning comprises:
- i) specifying address boundaries within registers inthe boundary register file.

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1	32.	The method as recited in claim 30, wherein said mapping
2		comprises:
3		i) storing individual components of the application
4		program within an associated address range that is
5		designated for processing of program instructions
6		corresponding to an associated ISA mode.
1	33.	The method as recited in claim 32, wherein said mapping
2		further comprises:
3		ii) evaluating an address of a program instruction
4		fetched during execution of the application
5		program against the contents of the boundary
6		register file to determine a particular address
7		range within which the program instruction lies.
1	34.	A computer data signal embodied in a transmission
2		medium, comprising:
3		first computer-readable program code, for providing
4		boundary address registers, said registers being
5		configured to partition an address space into
6		address ranges, said address ranges corresponding
7		to associated ISA modes.



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The computer data signal as recited in claim 34,
further comprising:
second computer-readable program code, for providing
ISA mode selection logic, said ISA mode selection
logic being configured to receive an address
associated with a program instruction, and
configured to compare said address against said
address ranges to determine an ISA mode for
processing said program instruction.